

# SKILLS



# S.KILLS

cover by **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN**  
story written & illustrated by **LISA J.**



links  
on topic:

phillyspissed.net

asbb.blogspot.de (german)

defma.blogspot.de (german)

definitionsmacht.xk (german)

inspired by:

Liz Baillie: "My brain hurts"

Diane di Massa: "Hothead Pisanu"

Christy C. Road: "Bad habits"

Allison Beddoe: "Dykes but for"

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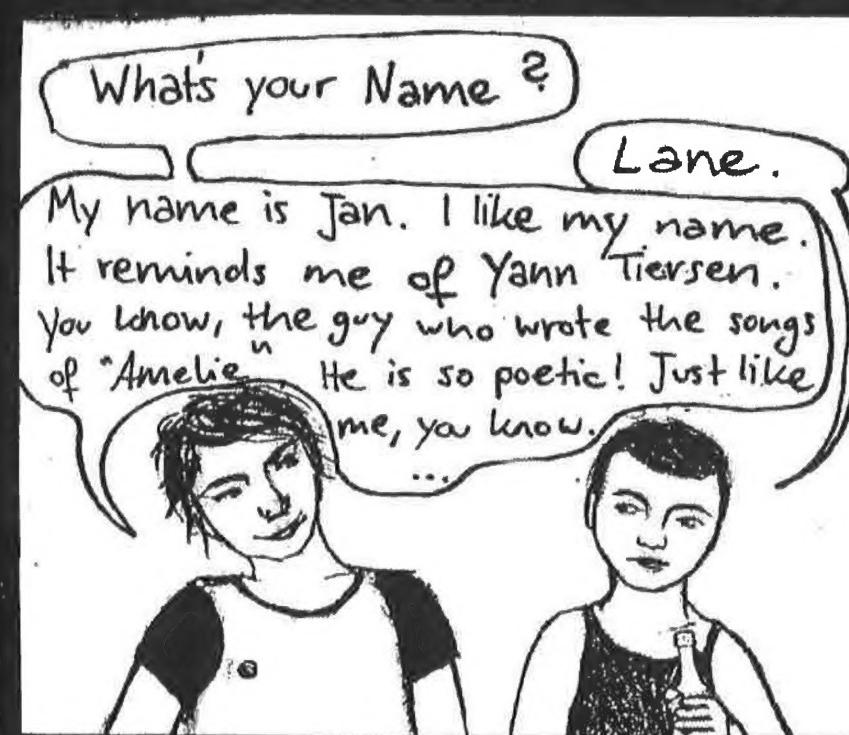
dead.minds@hushmail.com

whendeadminds.blogspot.com

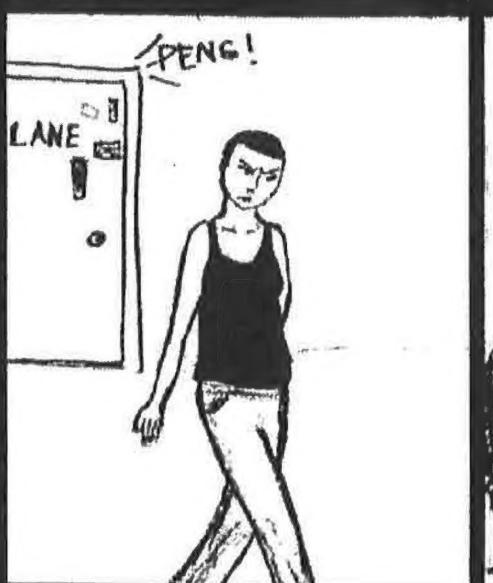
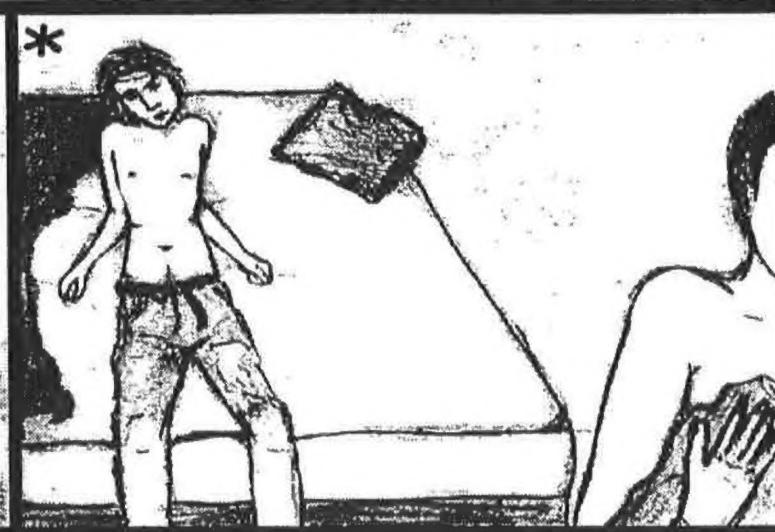


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what happened?

what?  
who was  
it?

same shit as usual... The person I like doesn't give a shit about me. So I made out with this guy--but then I changed my mind. He wouldn't stop & tried to rape me. I didn't know how to react. I just left the room. Now he's still at the party.

Jan. I know him from this gender trouble reading circle ...

Jan? Jan Smith?

The one who is just flirting with Sarah over there?

yes.

we used to be friends at high school. What exactly did he do?

Well... we went to my room... then he...  
...and I... then I left the room.

So actually you did agree to make out with him, right?

and he didn't force you to anything?

Lane, this has nothing to do with "rape"!

well... in the beginning...

He ignored what I said!

SURE it does.

I know what this is all about.

You're jealous because he's flirting with Sarah instead of you.

FUCK YOU!

Excuse me! I heard your discussion & thought you might want some support.

Do you want me to help kicking that guy out?

Hell yeah!

Hey Jan! I want you to leave.

What?

You better leave now or we'll kick you out!

Yeah.  
whatever.

Hey guys, this won't work.  
This is my party as well  
& Jan is a friend of mine.  
And I say he can stay.  
I'm sorry.

How can  
you stick up for  
this asshole?  
Lane is your friend!

Let's just go! I wanted to leave anyway...

All right.  
If you want to.

What are your plans now?  
Moving out?

Moving out?  
HAHA  
moving away from this hicktown I'd say!



I've heard  
that Leipzig  
is cool.  
& cheap.  
Anyway I've  
been thinking  
of leaving this  
town since I was 15.

So you want  
him to just  
get away with  
this?

I don't know.  
I guess it's not  
that easy to  
change  
such an  
asshole.

yeah, probably you  
are right.

I think I just changed  
my mind. I'll leave him  
a little farewell present.

But how do you know that it's  
Jan's bike?

He talked  
about this stupid  
thing for at least  
two hours. Thought  
he needed to  
explain to me  
how an engine  
works.

()  
If it doesn't  
improve him  
at least it  
improved  
my mood!



the end.

# NO MEANS NO!

## or Practical Antisexism: the Concept of Consent.

Consent is defined as the act of willingly and verbally agreeing to engage in specific sexual conduct. The perception of the exact point at which a sexual interaction begins can be highly subjective, therefore: better to ask too much rather than not at all. Even a slight touch can be experienced as a boundary crossing, so it is better to ask even whether a hug or a kiss is ok for the other person.

Boundary crossing and sexual violence can be (re)traumatizing for survivors of sexual assault - therefore it is important to communicate with your partner(s) over every sexual act. By talking you learn how far your partner(s) want(s) to go and can potentially avoid crossing a boundary.

Consent means asking every time about each sexual act, for example whether it is ok for the other person when you kiss, touch, caress, etc them.

Just because you are involved with someone or regularly kiss does not mean that their body is at your disposal.

Other forms of communication such as gestures or safe words are possible, but they should be agreed upon in advance so that there are no misunderstandings. Body movements and non-verbal responses (such as moans) are not always signs of consent!

If at any point consent is withdrawn or not given for further activities, then that means NO. And be aware:  
**SILENCE IS NOT CONSENT!**

A person cannot give consent while sleeping!

Be aware of your boundaries and the boundaries of others, try always to be in a position where you can judge the situation and ask if you are not sure how well your partner(s) can judge the situation for themselves. Judgement can be impaired not only through drugs and alcohol but also physical and emotional conditions. A person who is heavily under the influence of alcohol or drugs may no longer be able to give consent.

If you know that you have a sexually transmittable infection, inform your partner(s) so that you can decide together how you want to go about things. Talk about how and whether you want to use protection.

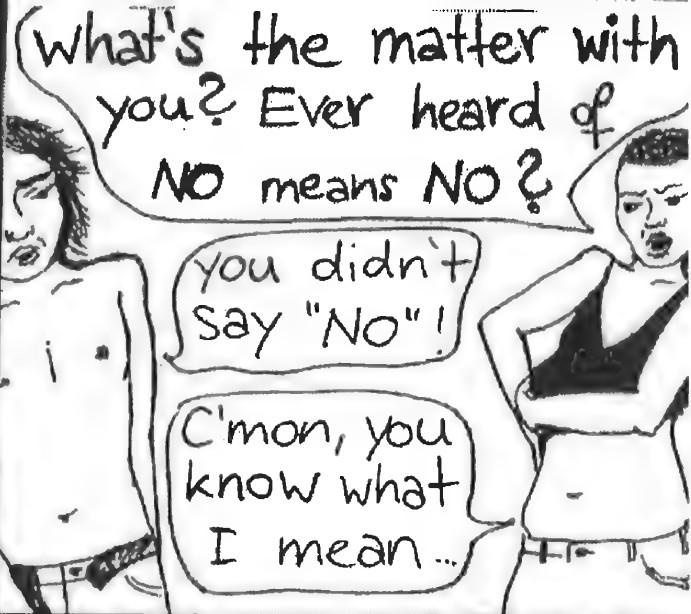
Consent can and should be enriching - namely through the knowledge of what your partner(s) feel(s) in the moment when you kiss him/her\_hir\_them. Consent is a positive approach to sexuality and everything having to do with it - instead of making assumptions and waiting to hear a NO, you ask for consent at every tiny step and thereby slowly find out whether and how a person wants to get close to you.

Consent is for everybody - it doesn't matter whether you're male, female, homo, hetero, bi, trans, whichever gender expressions and whatever forms of sex - consent conveys a very practical and lustful way of dealing with our sexuality.

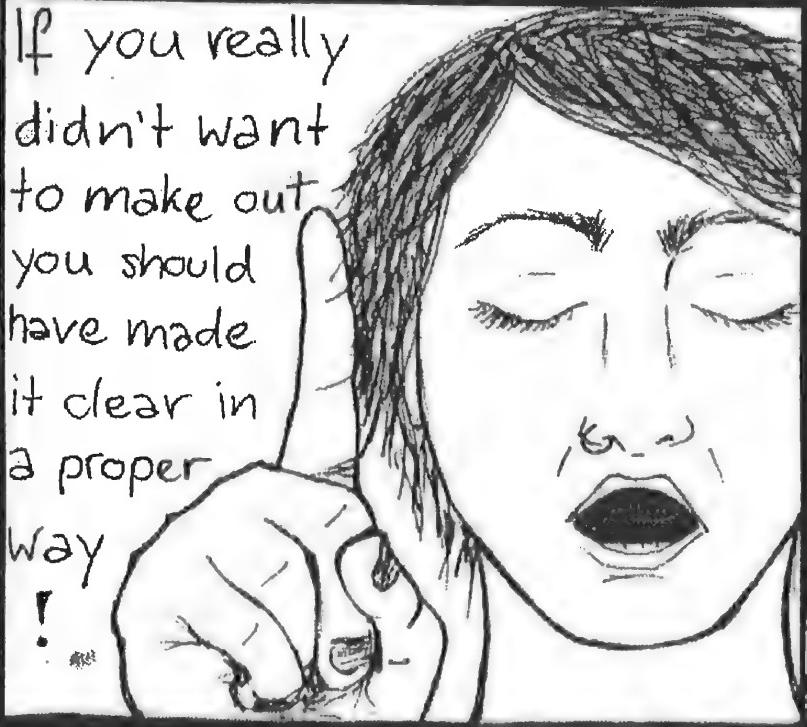
Consent cannot take place under pressure, such as constantly asking for sex or threats.

The concept of consent is about finding a respectful and dignified way of dealing with one another. It attempts to demonstrate possible courses of action and offers to be a guide for preventing sexual assaults. Of course there are other possibilities for dealing with one another in a trusting manner besides this concept of consent. The main principle should always be respectful dealings with others without crossing boundaries - whether you go your own way or let yourself be influenced by this conception of consent remains up to you.

\* alternative ending



If you really  
didn't want  
to make out  
you should  
have made  
it clear in  
a proper  
way  
!



It's just too  
hard to talk  
with your dick  
in my mouth!

I slowly start  
to like my mum's  
birthday presents



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you define consent?
2. Have you ever talked about consent with your partners(s) or friends?
3. Do you know people, or have you been with people who define consent differently than you do?
4. Have you ever been unsure about whether or not the person you were being sexual with wanted to be doing what you were doing? Did you talk about it? Did you ignore it in hopes that it would change? Did you continue what you were doing because it was pleasurable to you and you didn't want to deal with what the other person was experiencing? Did you continue because you felt it was your duty? How do you feel about the choice you made?
5. Do you think it is the other person's responsibility to say something if they aren't into what you are doing?
6. How might someone express that what is happening is not ok?
7. Do you look only for verbal signs or are there other signs?
8. Do you think it is possible to misinterpret silence for consent?
9. Have you ever asked someone what kinds of signs you should look for if they have a hard time verbalizing when something feels wrong?
10. Do you only ask about these kinds of things if you are in a serious relationship or do you feel able to talk in casual situations too?
11. Do you think talking ruins the mood?
12. Do you think consent can be erotic?
13. Do you think about people's abuse histories?
14. Do you check in as things progress or do you assume the original consent means everything is ok?
15. If you achieve consent once, do you assume it's always ok after that?
16. If someone consents to one thing, do you assume everything else is ok or do you ask before touching in different ways or taking things to more intense levels?
17. Are you resentful of people who need or want to talk about being abused? Why?
18. Are you usually attracted to people who fit the traditional standard of beauty as seen in the united states?
19. Do you pursue friendship with people because you want to be with them, and then give up on the friendship if that person isn't interested in you sexually?
20. Do you pursue someone sexually even after they have said they just want to be friends?
21. Do you assume that if someone is affectionate they are probably sexually interested in you?
22. Do you think about affection, sexuality and boundaries? Do you talk about these issues with people? IF so, do you talk about them only when you want to be sexual with someone or do you talk about them because you think it is important and you genuinely want to know?
23. Are you clear about your own intentions?
24. Have you ever tried to talk someone into doing something they showed hesitancy about?
25. Do you think hesitancy is a form of flirting?
26. Are you aware that in some instances it is not?
27. Have you ever thought someone's actions were flirtatious when that wasn't actually the message they wanted to get across?
28. Do you think that if someone is promiscuous that makes it ok to objectify them, or talk about them in ways you normally wouldn't?
29. If someone is promiscuous, do you think it's less important to get consent?
30. Do you think that if someone dresses in a certain way it makes it ok to objectify them?
31. If someone dresses a certain way do you think it means they want your sexual attention or approval?
32. Do you understand that there are many other reasons, that have nothing to do with you, that a person might want to dress or act in a way that you might find sexy?
33. Are you attracted to people with a certain kind of gender presentation?
34. Have you ever objectified someone's gender presentation?
35. Do you assume that each person who fits a certain perceived gender presentation will interact with you in the same way?
36. Do you think sex is a game?
37. Do you ever try to get yourself into situations that give you an excuse for touching someone you think would say "no" if you asked? I.e., dancing, getting really drunk around them, falling asleep next to them.
38. Do you make people feel "unfun" or "unliberated" if they don't want to try certain sexual things?
39. Do you think there are ways you act that might make someone feel that way even if it's not what you're trying to do?
40. Do you ever try and make bargains? I.e. "If you let me \_\_\_\_\_ I'll do \_\_\_\_\_ for you?"
41. Have you ever tried asking someone what they're feeling? IF so, did you listen to them and respect them?

big  
+  
tiny  
+  
tiny

from Supportive

43. Do you feel like being in a relationship with someone means that they have an obligation to have sex with you?
44. What if they want to abstain from sex for a week? a month? a year?
45. Do you whine or threaten if you're not having the amount of sex or the kind of sex that you want?
46. Do you think it's ok to initiate something sexual with someone who's sleeping?
47. What if the person is your partner?
48. Do you think it's important to talk with them about it when they're awake first?
49. Do you ever look at how you interact with people or how to treat people, positive or negative, and where that comes from/ where you learned it?
50. Do you behave differently when you've been drinking?
51. What are positive aspects of drinking for you? What are negative aspects?
52. Have you been sexual with people when you were drunk or when they were drunk? Have you ever felt uncomfortable or embarrassed about it the next day? Has the person you were with ever acted weird to you afterward?
53. Do you seek consent the same way when you are drunk as when you're sober?
54. Do you think it is important to talk the next day with the person you've been sexual with if there has been drinking involved? If not, Is it because it's uncomfortable or because you think something might have happened that shouldn't have? Or is it because you think that's just the way things go?
55. Do you think people need to take things more lightly?
56. Do you think these questions are repressive and people who look critically at their sexual histories and their current behavior are uptight and should be more "liberated"?
57. Do you think liberation might be different for different people?
58. Do you find yourself repeating binary gender behaviors, even within queer relationships and friendships? How might you doing this make others feel?
59. Do you view sexuality and gender presentation as part of a whole person, or do you consider those to be exclusively sexual aspects of people?
60. If someone is dressed in drag, do you take it as an invitation to make sexual comments?
61. Do you fetishize people because of their gender presentation?
62. Do you think only men abuse?
63. Do you think that in a relationship between people of the same gender, only the one who is more "manly" abuses?
64. How do you react if someone becomes uncomfortable with what you're doing, or if they don't want to do something? Do you get defensive? Do you feel guilty? Does the other person end up having to take care of you and reassure you? or are you able to step back and listen and hear them and support them and take responsibility for your actions?
65. Do you tell your side of the story and try and change the way they experienced the situation?
66. Do you do things to show your partner that you're listening and that you're interested in their ideas about consent or their ideas about what you did?
67. Do you ever talk about sex and consent when you're not in bed?
68. Have you ever raped or sexually abused or sexually manipulated someone? Are you able to think about your behavior? Have you made changes? What kinds of changes?
69. Are you uncomfortable with your body or your sexuality?
70. Have you been sexually abused?
71. Has your own uncomfortable ness or your own abuse history caused you to act in abusive ways? If so, have you ever been able to talk to anyone about it? Do you think talking about it is or could be helpful?
72. Do you avoid talking about consent or abuse because you aren't ready to or don't want to talk about your own sexual abuse?
73. Do you ever feel obligated to have sex?
74. Do you ever feel obligated to initiate sex?
75. What if days, months, or years later, someone tells you they were uncomfortable with what you did? Do you grill them?
76. Do you initiate conversations about safe sex and birth control (if applicable)?
77. Do you think that saying something as vague as "I've been tested recently" is enough?
78. Do you take your partners concerns about safe sex and/or birth control seriously?
79. Do you think that if one person wants to have safe sex and the other person doesn't really care, it is the responsibility of the person who has concerns to provide safe sex supplies?
80. Do you think if a person has a body that can get pregnant, and they don't want to, it is up to them to provide birth control?
81. Do you complain or refuse safe sex or the type of birth control your partner want to use because it reduces your pleasure?
82. Do you try and manipulate your partner about these issues?
83. Do you think there is ongoing work that we can do to end sexual violence in our

...Not all of the questions have right or wrong answers. We put them together with the hopes that it would help people to think deeply, and to help open up conversations about consent. I know it's a long list, but please read and think honestly about these questions, one at a time.

# NO MEANS NO

"NOT NOW" MEANS NO

I HAVE A BOY/GIRLFRIEND MEANS NO

MAYBE LATER MEANS NO

NO THANKS MEANS NO

YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE MEANS NO

FUCK OFF MEANS NO

I'D RATHER BE ALONE RIGHT NOW MEANS NO

DON'T TOUCH ME MEANS NO

I REALLY LIKE YOU BUT... MEANS NO

LET'S JUST GO TO SLEEP MEANS NO

I'M NOT SURE MEANS NO

YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING MEANS NO

SILENCE MEANS NO